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PATENT

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Response
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Appl. No. : 09/848,972
Filed : May 4, 2001

Applicant believes that the Supplemental Declaration filed herewith addresses and overcomes the Examiner's rejection, and that all of the claims are allowable.

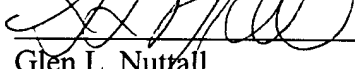
CONCLUSION

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2 May 02

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